

REMARKS

Claims 21-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 21 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 25, and claim 25 is correspondingly canceled.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments:

(a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the subject matter incorporated into claim 21 has previously been considered (and found allowable) in claim 25; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on December 7, 2001. Applicants have not yet received back from the Examiner a copy of the Form PTO-1449 initialed to acknowledge the fact that the Examiner has considered the cited disclosed information.

The Examiner is requested to initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the subject Form PTO-1449. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of that form is attached.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

In the Office Action, claims 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as allegedly not being enabled by the specification. In the rejection, it was acknowledged that claim 25 was enabled. Accordingly, by this Amendment, claim 21 is amended to include the

subject matter of claim 25. As such, the rejection should be withdrawn as moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

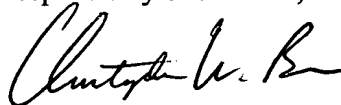
Applicants note with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claim 25 is allowable. As claim 25 is now included in claim 21, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 21-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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